

# NAL'IBALI

## Indlela yokukhuthaza abantu abangakuthandiyo ukufunda



## How to encourage reluctant readers

Abanye abantwana bayakwazi ukuhlala bazole xa ubafundela ibali elide ngaphambi kokuba balale, ngoxa abanye bona beye bangazinzi. Abanye abantwana baye bazithande zisuka iincwadi, ibe abanye bona kufuneka bathundezwe. Yinto eqhelekileyo leyo. Umntwana ngamnye wahlukile, ibe zitshintsha kakhulu izinto abazithandayo njengoko bekhula.

Some children are able to sit still for a long bedtime story, while others get restless. Some children take to books immediately, and others need more encouragement. This is entirely normal. Each child is different, and what they enjoy changes vastly as they grow older.

### Kutheni bengafuni ukufunda?

Abantu ngamanye amaxesha bacinga ukuba "umntu ongakuthandiyo ukufunda" usoloko "engoyena ungakwaziyo ukufunda" – nto leyo engeyonyaniso tu.

- Abantwana abangakuthandiyo ukufunda idla ngokuba ngabantwana abakrelekrele bona ntonje abaqhelananga neencwadi.
- Mhlawumbi abakhulelanga kwindawo ekufundwayo kuyo.
- Mhlawumbi abazange babe nezinto zokufunda ezinentsingiselo kubo.
- Okanye ke kwakungekho mabali ngolwimi lwabo lweenkobe.

### Why don't they want to read?

People sometimes think that a "reluctant reader" is always a "less able reader" – which can't be further from the truth.

- Reluctant readers are often bright children who have never connected with books.
- Maybe they haven't grown up in a reading culture.
- Perhaps they never had reading materials that were meaningful to them.
- Or there were no stories available in their mother tongue.

### Ungabenza njani babe nemincili ngokufunda?

- Jolisa kwizinto abazicwabayo, hayi abangakwazi kuzenza kakuhle**  
Abanye abantwana bakufumanisa kunzima ukufunda, ngoko akunakufane kwenzeka ukuba bakhethe ukufundela ukuzonwabisa. Eyona nto ungayenza kukuzama ukwenza kube mnandi kwakhona ukufunda. Fumana ibali okanye ikhomiki abayithandayo okanye ubaqambe ibali! Ungabanyanzeli abantwana bakho ukuba bafunde iincwadi abangafuni kuzifunda. Ukufunda kumele kubangele umdla, kubenze bakhulele abantwana kwaye kube mnandi!
- Babonise ezininzi**  
Ndwendwela ilayibrari okanye iivenkile yeencwadi uze uvumele abantwana bakho bakhethe iincwadi abafuna ukuzifunda. Ukufunda into kubhetele kunokungafundi nto kwaphela, ngoko ungakhathazeki ukuba abantwana bakho bakhetha iincwadi ezilula kakhulu kubo, okanye ezithetha ngemiba ocinga ukuba ayibalulekanga.
- Kwenze kubachaphazele ngokobuqu**  
Babhalele abantwana bakho. Bashiyele izibhiliwana, imibongo okanye amabali amafutshane kwizikhafutina abaziphatha esikolweni okanye kwibhegi zabo zesikolo. Wakuba uqalisile ukwenza ukufunda namabali kube yinto ebachaphazela ngokobuqu ekhaya, abantwana baza kuqalisa ukukujonga njengento entle ukufunda.

### How can you get them excited about reading?

- Focus on their strengths, not their weakness**  
Some children find reading challenging, so it's less likely that they will choose to read for pleasure. The best thing is to try to bring back the enjoyment of reading. Find a story or comic that they like or make up a story for them! Do not force your children to read books that they don't want to read. Reading should be an interesting, relaxing and fun activity for children!
- Bigger exposure**  
Visit the library or bookshops and let your children choose books that they want to read. Reading something is better than not reading at all, so don't worry if the books your children choose seem to be too easy for them, or deal with subjects that you think are not important.
- Make it personal**  
Write to your children. Leave them little notes, poems or short stories in their lunch box or schoolbag. Once you start making reading and stories a personal activity at home, children will start developing a positive relationship with reading.

### Qala besebancinane

Kwanangaphambi kokuba bakwazi ukufunda, zikho iindlela ongaqalisa ngazo ukubenza bawathande amabali abantwana abanonyaka omnye ukuya kwemihlanu ubudala. Bafundele ibali, ibe endaweni yokuba uphelele apho, lilinganise elo bali uze uthethe nabo ngabantu ekuthethwa ngabo ebalini! Ngale ndlela, umntwana wakho angonwatyiswa kukumamela amabali, ibe loo nto iphuhlisa amandla akhe okuthethelelela izinto nawokucinga.

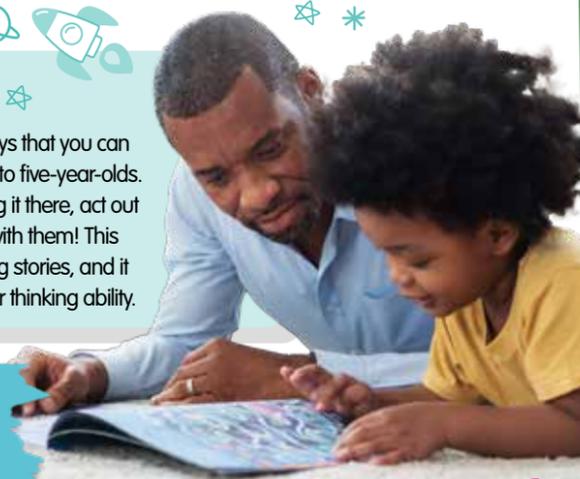
### Start early

Even before they can read, there are ways that you can start developing a love of stories in one- to five-year-olds. Read them a story, and instead of ending it there, act out the story and talk about the characters with them! This way, your children can have fun exploring stories, and it develops both their imagination and their thinking ability.

Jonga iphepha 4 ukuze ufumane amanye amacebo okwenza intsapho yakho ifunde qho!



See page 4 for some ideas to get your family reading regularly!



Drive your imagination



IT STARTS WITH A STORY.  
KONKE KUQALA NGEBALI.

# Imbewu yokuFunda nokuBhala!

Imisebenzi yobugcisa inceda ekukhuliseni amandla wabantwana okucinga!

## Literacy Seeds!

Creative activities help grow children's thinking power!



Bazali nabagcini babantwana ababekekileyo, uphononongo lwakutshanje lubonise ukuba ukuzoba, ukupeyinta, ukwenza iimodeli neminye imisebenzi eyenziwa ngezandla zingabanceda abantwana baphuhlise ubuchule bokusombulula iingxaki. Xa besenza ubugcisa nezinto ezenziwe ngezandla, abantwana kuye kufuneka bacinge ngendlela enobugcisa, bacinge ngeendlela ezahlukeneyo zokusombulula iingxaki, kwaye benze izigqibo ezisekelwe koko bakubonayo kwaye baqonde okubangqongileyo.

Abantwana kufuneka baphuhlise ubuchule bokucinga ngendlela ehlahutyayo ukuze basebenze kwaye baqonde yonke inkcazelo abadibana nayo suku ngalunye. Kufuneka basebenzise izivamvo zabo ezahlukeneyo ukuze baqonde kwaye batolike yonke loo nkcazelo.

Dear parents and caregivers of young children, recent studies have shown that drawing, painting, making models and other creative activities can help children to develop problem-solving skills. When doing art and crafts, children need to think creatively, think about different ways of solving problems, and make decisions based on what they see and understand in their environment.

Children need to develop critical thinking skills to work through and understand all the information that they come across every day. They have to use their different senses to understand and interpret all this information.

### Ukuzoba, ukupeyinta nokwenza iimodeli zomdongwe kunceda abantwana baphuhlise obu buchule:

#### 1. Ubuchule bokwenza izinto ngononophelo.

Ukusebenzisa iikhrayoni, iibrashi zokupeyinta nokubumba udongwe kunceda abantwana baphuhlise izihlunu zabo zokwenza izinto ngononophelo. Oku kuza kubanceda ekubhaleni, ekusebenziseni izixhobo zokusebenza ngendlela echanileyo nakweminye imisebenzi apho kufuneka basebenzise iintshukumo ezincinane, ezilawulwayo.

**2. Ukuphuhlisa amandla okuqonda.** Ubugcisa bungabanceda abantwana babone baze bakope indlela izinto ezimile ngayo neephatheni. Bafunda nokuba isenzo esithile siba nomphumo othile qho, ngokomzekelo, ukuxuba ipeyinti ebomvu netyheli kuvelisa ipeyinti eorenji. Bafunda nokucebisa indlela abaza kusebenzisa ngayo izinto abanazo (ipeyinti, udongwe, amaphepha, iikhrayoni) ukuze benze umsebenzi wabo wobugcisa, kwaye batolike oko bakubonayo kokubangqongileyo xa bezoba abantu, izilwanyana nezinye izinto.

**3. Ubuchule bezibalo.** Abantwana banokufunda, bayile baze baqalise ukuqonda izinto ezifana neesayizi nokumila kwezinto. Bafunda ukubala, ukuthelekisa izinto ezingafaniyo, nokuba izinto zibonakala zinkulu okanye zincinci kuxhomekeka ekubeni ukufutshane okanye ukude kangakanani kuzo.

**4. Ubuchule bolwimi.** Njengoko abantwana bemamela izinto ozithethayo nemibuzo yakho kwaye bethetha ngeyabo imisebenzi yobugcisa nangendlela abaziva ngayo, baphuhlisa ubuchule babo bolwimi kwaye bandisa isigama sabo.



### Drawing, painting and clay modelling helps children develop these skills:

**1. Fine motor skills.** Using crayons, paint brushes and moulding clay helps children develop their fine motor muscles. This will help them with writing, using tools correctly and other tasks where they need to use small, controlled movements.

**2. Cognitive development.** Art can help children see and copy shapes and patterns. They also learn that a particular action has a particular outcome each time, for example, mixing red and yellow paint makes orange paint. They learn to plan how they will use their resources (paint, clay, paper, crayons) to make their artwork, and to interpret what they see in their environment when they draw people, animals and other objects.

**3. Math skills.** Children can learn, create and begin to understand concepts like size and shape. They learn about counting, about comparing different things, and that things appear bigger or smaller depending on how near or far they are.

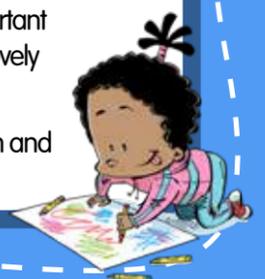
**4. Language skills.** As children listen to your comments and questions and talk about their artwork and how they made it, they develop language skills and increase their vocabulary.

### Singakhuthaza abantwana esibahoyayo ukuba baqhubeke bezoba, bepeyinta kwaye besenza izinto ezenziwa ngezandla.

- \* Babuze imibuzo engqalileyo ngomsebenzi wabo wobugcisa enjengothi, "Uzobe (okanye upeyinte okanye wenze) ntoni?" okanye othi "Kutheni uye wakhetha ukwenza la nto?"
- \* Bamamele kakuhle xa bethetha ngento abayiyilileyo. Loo nto iza kukunceda uqonde izinto ezibalulekileyo nezinentsingiselo kubantwana bakho. Ikwaliithuba elihle lokuqinisa ubuhlobo nabo.
- \* Bonisa umsebenzi wabo kwindawo oza kubonakala lula nongayi kungcoliswa okanye wophulwe lula kuyo.

### We can encourage children in our care to continue drawing, painting and doing crafts.

- \* Ask specific questions about their artwork like, "What did you draw (or paint or make)?" or "Why did you choose to make that?"
- \* Listen carefully as they talk about what they have created. This will help you to understand what is important and meaningful to your children. It is also a lovely opportunity to connect with them.
- \* Display their work where it can easily be seen and won't get dirty or broken easily.



Drive your imagination



## Izinto zobugcisa ekulula ukuzenzela abantwana abancinci



## Easy art activities for young children

**1. Ukupeyinta ngestraw** Sebenzisa istraw sokusela ukuze ufunxe ipeyinti uze uyitshize ephepheni okanye ubeke ithontsi lepeyinti ephepheni okanye uyivuthele ngestraw eso ukuze isasazeke.

**2. Ukupeyinta ngeminwe** Yenza ipeyinti engabiziyo, enokutyiwa kuba abantwana abancinci bayathanda ukufaka izinto emilonyeni yabo!

Pheka iflawa namanzi ubushushu besitovu sakho bube phakathi. Qhubeka uwuzamisa loo mxube de ujike ube ngqindilili. Wuyeke uphole uze uwukhe uwugalele kwiikomityi ezininzi kangangoko ufuna. Faka izinto ezitshintsha imibala yokutya kwikomityi nganye ukuze wenze iipeyinti zemibala eyahlukileyo.

**3. Icollage yombala othile** Yenza icollage yombala usebenzisa umbala omnye kuphela. Abantwana bakho bangafumana umbala wabo kumaphephandaba nakwiimagazini. Emva koko bangasika okanye bazikrazule ezo ziqwenga zombala baze bancamathelise ezo ziqwenga zamaphepha kwiphepha elikhulu.

**4. Ukuprinta ngeetapile okanye ngesiponji**

Sika iitapile esiqingatheni uze ukhuphe iiphatheni ezithile kuzo okanye ukhuphe iisheyipu ezithile kwisiponji esidala. Emva koko abantwana bakho baza kuthi nku ezo tapile okanye iziponji kwitreyi yepeyinti baze baziprintele ephepheni.

Enye into abangayenza kukuprintela amagqabi. Qokelela amagqabi amile ngeendlela ezingafaniyo. Abantwana bapeyinta loo magqabi kwelinye icala baze bawaguqule bawaprintele ephepheni.

**5. Umfanekiso weemilo** Sika imilo kumaphepha amibalabala uze usebenzise ezo milo ukuze uyile umfanekiso. Vumela abantwana bakho baziyele owabo umfanekiso. Banike iikhrayoni ukuze bafakele iinkcukacha ezithile kwimifanekiso yeemilo yabo.



**1. Straw painting** Use a drinking straw to pick up some paint, and splatter it onto a page or put a drop of paint onto the page and blow through the straw to make the paint spread out.

**2. Finger painting** Make cheap, edible paint because young children love putting things in their mouths!

Cook some flour and water over medium heat. Stir the mixture constantly until it turns into a paste. Let it cool, and scoop the paste into as many cups as you need. Mix food colouring into each cup to make paints of different colours.

**3. Colour collage** Make a colour collage using only one colour. Your children can find their colour in old newspapers and magazines. They then cut or tear out the colour pieces and paste the bits of paper on a sheet of paper.

**4. Potato or sponge printing** Cut potatoes in half and cut some simple patterns into them or cut shapes from old sponges. Your children can then dip the potatoes or sponges into a tray of paint and print them onto paper.

They can also make leaf prints. Collect leaves of different shapes. The children paint the leaves on one side then turn them over and print them onto paper.

**5. Shape picture** Cut different shapes out of coloured paper and then use the shapes to create a picture. Allow your children to create a picture on their own. Give them crayons so that they can add details to their shape pictures.

## Indlela yokusebenzisa amabali ethu ngeendlela ezahlukeneyo

**1. Balisela umntwana wakho ibali.** Lifunde ibali uze uziqhelanise nokulibalisa. Emva koko sebenzisa ilizwi, ubuso nomzimba wakho ukuze ubenze baphile abalinganiswa belo bali.

**2. Mfundele ibali umntwana wakho.** Ncololani ngemifanekiso. Buza, "Ucinga ukuba kuza kwenzeka ntoni emva kwale?" okanye "Ucinga ukuba kutheni lo mlinganiswa eye wathetha okanye wenza le nto?"

**3. Funda ibali kunye nomntwana wakho.** Tshintshanani ngokufunda ibali. Ungamlungisi xa ephazamile, uze umncede kuphela xa ekucelile.

**4. Mamela umntwana wakho xa efunda.** Mamela ungamphazamisi. Mxelele ukuba uyakuthanda ukummamela xa ekufundela ngokuvakalayo.

**5. Yenzani izinto ezikwindawo ethi Yenza ibali linike umdla!** Ukwenza ezo zinto nabantwana bakho kuza kuba mnandi kuwe nakubo.

## How to use our stories in different ways

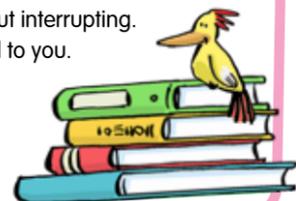
**1. Tell the story to your child.** Read and practise telling the story. Then use your voice, face and body to bring the story to life.

**2. Read the story to your child.** Talk about the pictures. Ask, "What do you think happens next?" or "Why do you think the character said or did that?"

**3. Read the story with your child.** Take turns to read the story together. Don't correct their mistakes, and only help if they ask for it.

**4. Listen to your child read.** Listen without interrupting. Say that you enjoy hearing them read aloud to you.

**5. Do the Get story active! activities.** This should be fun for you and your child.



# UMeyi Yinyanga Yokubhaqwa Ufunda Incwadi!

## May is Get-Caught-Reading Month!



NgoMeyi, sineentsuku ezingama-31 zokukhumbuza abantu abakubudala obahlukileyo ngendlela nje ekumnandi ngayo ukufunda! Nanga amanye amacebiso endlela ongangena ngayo emoyeni **Wenyanga Yokubhaqwa Ufunda** uze uqalise ukusasaza uvuyo lokufunda ekhaya.

In May, we have 31 days to remind people of all ages just how much fun it is to read! Here are some ideas on how you can get into the spirit of **Get-Caught-Reading Month** and start spreading the joy of reading at home.



### 1. Fundani iincwadi zekhomiki kunye

Iincwadi zekhomiki ziyindlela entle kakhulu yokukhuthaza noyena mntu ungakuthandiyo ukufunda ukuba afunde. Iincwadi zekhomiki neencwadi zamabali ezinemifanekiso kumnandi ukuzifunda ngokuvakalayo kunye, ngokukodwa xa nitshintshisana naxa nisebenzisa amazwi angafaniyo xa kuthetha abantu abahlukileyo ebalini.

### 2. Yenzani uludwe lweencwadi, iimagazini, amabali namanqaku eniza kuwafunda

Njengentsapho, yenzani uludwe lwenento ngamnye angathanda ukuyifunda ebudeni bukaMeyi. Emva koko qokelelani zonke izinto zokufunda ndawonye kwikhaya lenu. Ngale ndlela, ilungu lentso ngalinye lingafumana into elifuna ukuyifunda ngokukhawuleza nalula.

### 3. Yekani yonke into nifunde

Bekani ixesha soku ngalunye xa onke amalungu entsapho eza kuyeka loo nto ebeyenza, athathe incwadi okanye ibali, aze afunde! Quka nabantwana bakho abancinci ngokubafundela ngokuvakalayo ukuze bakhule bekuthanda ukufunda.

### 4. Balisani ngempumelelo yenu!

Yenzani umzamo okhethekileyo wokugqala nokubhiyozela ukufunda ekhaya. Wancome amalungu entsapho yakho – aselula namadala – ngokufunda yonke imihla. Fota iifoto uze uzipowuste kwisteyithasi sakho sikaWhatsApp. Zishere nathi kuyo nayiphi kwiisayithi zamajelo okuncokola zikaNalibali.



### 1. Read comic books together

Comic books are a great way to persuade even the most reluctant of readers to read. Comic books and graphic novels are fun to read aloud together, especially when you take turns and use different voices for different characters.

### 2. Make a list of books, magazines, stories and articles to read

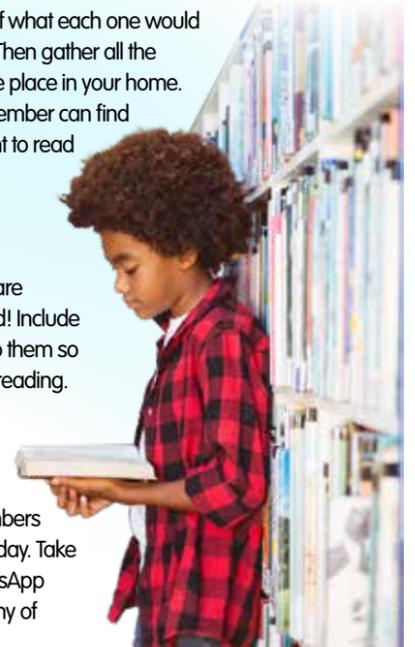
As a family, make a list of what each one would like to read during May. Then gather all the reading material into one place in your home. That way, each family member can find something that they want to read quickly and easily.

### 3. Drop everything and read

Set aside a time every day when all family members will stop what they are doing, grab a book or story, and read! Include your young ones by reading aloud to them so that they can grow up with a love of reading.

### 4. Share your success!

Make a special effort to recognise and celebrate reading in your home. Compliment your family members – young and old – on reading every day. Take photos and post them on your WhatsApp status. And share them with us on any of Nalibali's social media sites.



## Yandisa ithala lakho leencwadi.

Zenzele iincwadana **EZIMBINI** onokuzisika-ze-uzigcine

1. Khupha iphepha lesi- **5** ukuya kwele- **12** kolu hlelo.
2. Uxwebhu olunamaphepha aqala kwelesi- **5**, elesi- **6**, ele- **11** nele- **12** lwenza incwadi yokuqala. Uxwebhu olunamaphepha aqala kwelesi- **7**, **8**, **9** nele- **10** lwenza eyesibini incwadi.
3. Sebenzisa uxwebhu ngalunye kula mabini ukwenza incwadana. Landela imiyalelo engezantsi ukwenza incwadi nganye.
  - a) Songa uxwebhu phakathi kumgca wamachaphaza amnyama.
  - b) Phinda ulusonge phakathi kwakhona ulandela umgca wamachaphaza aluhlaza.
  - c) Sika ke ngoku ulandela imigca yamachaphaza abomvu.



## Grow your own library.

Create **TWO** cut-out-and-keep books

1. Take out pages **5** to **12** of this supplement.
2. The sheet with pages **5**, **6**, **11** and **12** on it makes up one book. The sheet with pages **7**, **8**, **9** and **10** on it makes up the other book.
3. Use each of the sheets to make a book. Follow the instructions below to make each book.
  - a) Fold the sheet in half along the black dotted line.
  - b) Fold it in half again along the green dotted line.
  - c) Cut along the red dotted lines.



Drive your imagination

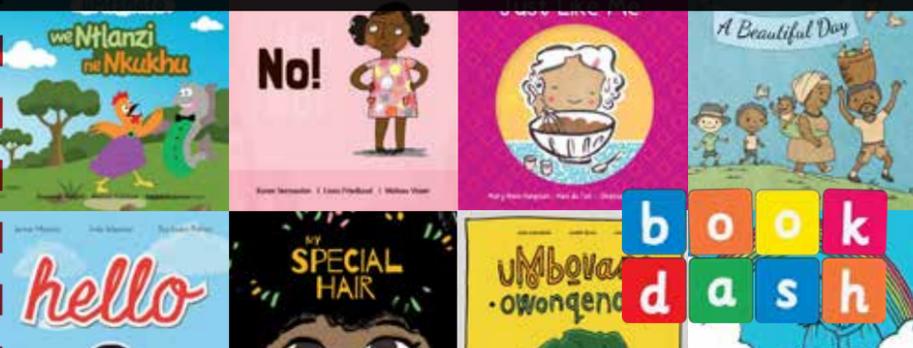
Muzi has a new idea for building the best thing ever.  
 Umuzi unecabo elitsha lokwakha eyona nto yakha yantle.



At the bus stop, Muzi is amazed.  
 He sees red things and blue things.  
 Small things and big things.  
 New things and old things.  
 Estopini sebhasi, uMuzi umangaliswe.  
 Ubona izinto ezibomvu nezinto eziblowu.  
 Izinto ezincinane nezinto ezinkulu.  
 Izinto ezintsha nezinto ezindala.



Lots more free books at [bookdash.org](http://bookdash.org)



Get story active!

- ★ Draw a picture of something that you would like to build out of throwaway things. Under your drawing, write one or two sentences about what you have made and who you would give it to.
- ★ What are some of the things that Muzi used to build a toy house for uGogo?
- ★ Gather old buttons, beads, recyclable materials, clay or play dough and build your own little house.

Yenza ibali linike umdla!

- ★ Zoba umfanekiso wento ongathanda ukuyakha ngezinto ezilahlwayo. Phantsi kwalo mzobo, bhala isivakalisi esinye okanye ezibini ngento oyenzileyo nangokuba ungayinika bani.
- ★ Zeziphi ezinye zezinto uMuzi azisebenzisileyo ukuze akhele uMakhulu indlu yezinto zokudlala?
- ★ Qokelela amaqhosha amadala, amaso, izinto ezinokuphinda zisetyenziswe, udongwe okanye intlama yokudlala uze uzakhele indlu yakho encinane.

Nal'ibali is a national reading-for-enjoyment campaign to spark and embed a culture of reading across South Africa. For more information, visit [www.nalibali.org](http://www.nalibali.org).



UNal'ibali liphulo likazwelonke lokufundela ukuzonwabisa elinjongo yalo ikukuvuselela nokwendiselisa inkcubeko nesithethe sokufunda kuMzantsi Afrika uphela. Ukuze ufumane iinkcukacha ezithe vetshe, ndwendwela ku-[www.nalibali.org](http://www.nalibali.org).



Drive your imagination

The best thing ever



Eyona nto yakha yantle

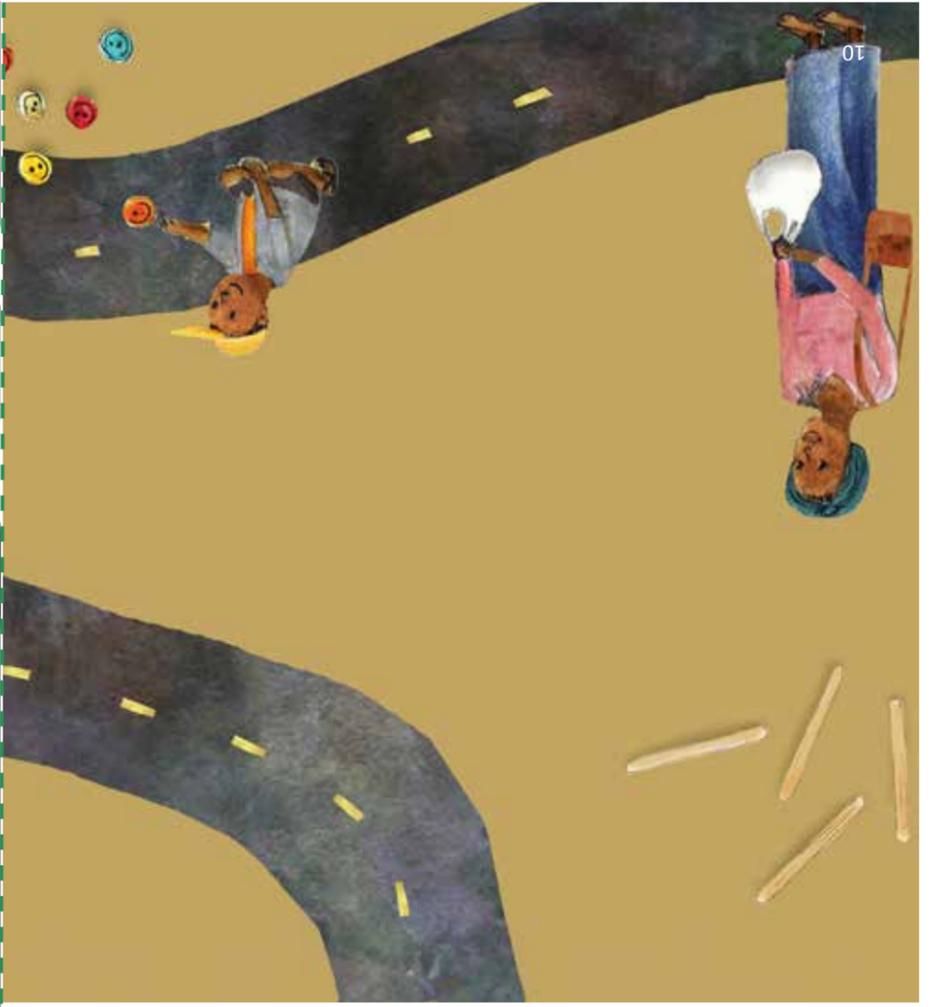
Melissa Fagan • Lauren Nel  
 Stefania Origi

**Ideas to talk about:** What is your "best thing ever"? Is it something that you will share with others? Look at the cover of this booklet. What do you think the story is about?

**Izinto eninokuthetha ngazo:** Yintoni "eyona nto yakha yantle" ekhe yenzeka kuwe? Ngaba yinto oza kuyibalise abanye abantu? Khawujonge ikhava yale ncwadana. Ucinga ukuba lingantoni eli bali?

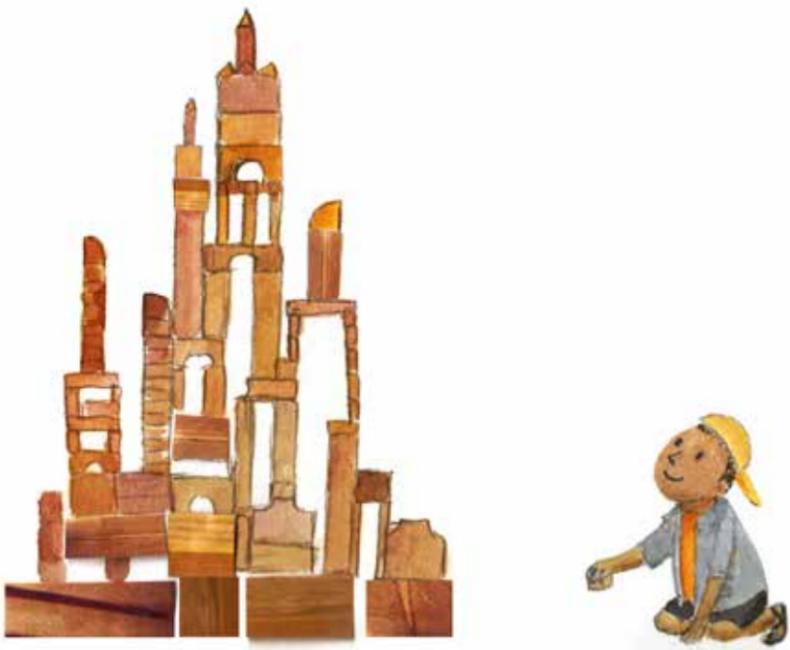


He is sad. Without his toys, how can he build the best thing ever?  
 Ukhathekile. Ngaphandle kwezinto zakhe zokudlala, angayakha njani eyona nto yakha yantle?



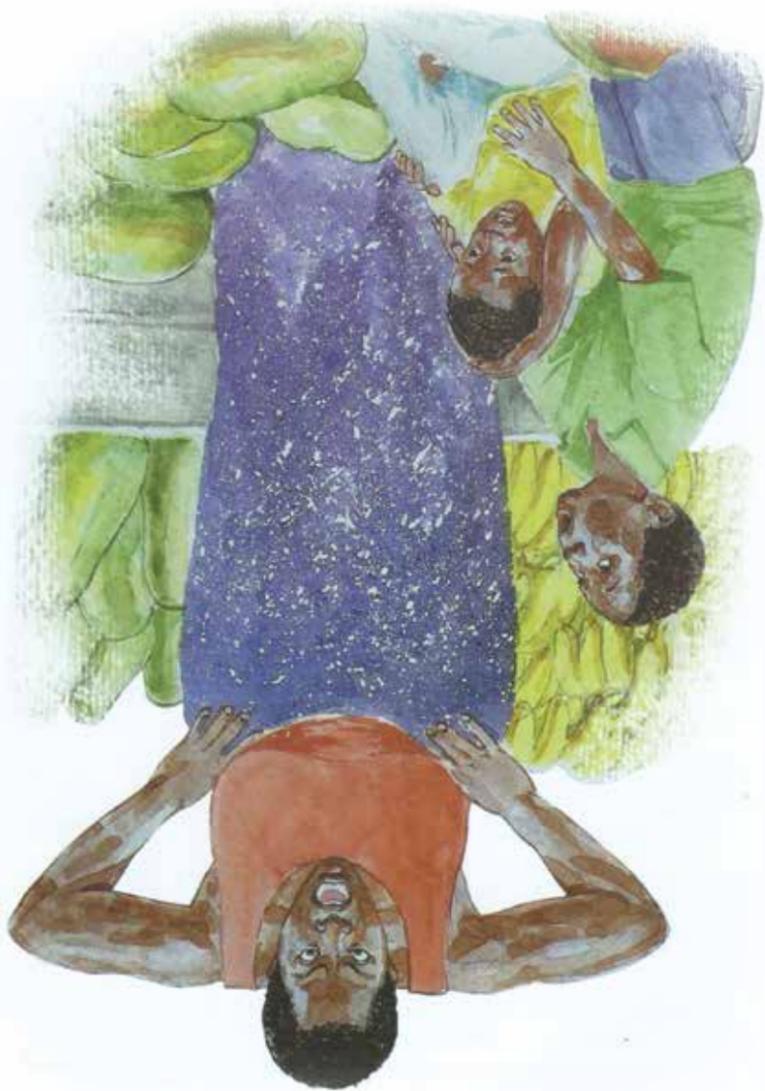
On the road to uGogo's, Muzi finds many things and long things and short things. Round things and square things.  
 Endleleni eya kwaMakhlulu, uMuzi ufumana izinto ezininzi, izinto ezinde nezinto ezimfutshane. Izinto ezimile okwesazinge nezinto ezisikweri.

Muzi loves to build things. He dreams of building the best thing ever.



UMuzi uyakuthanda ukwakha izinto. Unephupha lokwakha eyona nto yakha yantle.





There is a sudden push from behind. We stagger and land on some pawpaws. Now some of them are squashed. I am worried that Piwai might have been hurt, but I am happy to see him laugh. He licks the pawpaw off his hand.

The woman at the pawpaw stall suddenly leans over and shouts at Piwai, "Do you know how much money a pawpaw costs? You have squashed two pawpaws. I want my money now."

Ngesiqophe kubakho into esityhala ngasemva. Siyagxadzela siye kuthi folokohlo kwipopo. Ngoku, ezinye zazo zityumkile. Ndinexhala lokuba uPwai kungenzeka wonzakale, kodwa ndiyavuya ndakumbona ehleka. Uyayimunca loo popo esandleni sakhe. Ibhinqa elikwistendi sepopo ngokukhawuleza liyagoba lize lingxolise uPwai, "Uyazi ukuba iyimalini ipopo? Utyumze ipopo ezimbini. Ndituna imali yam ngoku."

**HEARTLINES**  
The Centre for Values Promotion



For more information, please email [info@heartlines.org.za](mailto:info@heartlines.org.za) or phone (011) 771 2540.

Xa ufuna inkcazelo engakumbi nceda uthumele i-imeyili kwidilesi ethi [info@heartlines.org.za](mailto:info@heartlines.org.za) okanye ufowunele kule nombolo (011) 771 2540.

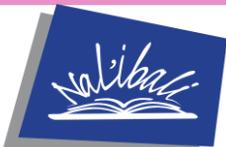
### Get story active!

- ★ What do you think of the way that the pawpaw seller behaved towards Pasi and Piwai? What else could she have said and/or done when she found that the boys had accidentally squashed the pawpaws?
- ★ Draw a picture of what you think the market looks like.
- ★ Act out what you think might have happened after the story ended. When Pasi and Piwai got home, what do you think their mother said and did?

### Yenza ibali linike umdla!

- ★ Ucinga ntoni ngendlela umthengisi weepopo aye wamphatha ngayo uPasi noPwai? Yintoni angeyithethile waza/okanye wayenza xa esiva ukuba la makhwenkwe azityumze ngempazamo ezo popo?
- ★ Zoba umfanekiso wendlela ocinga ukuba iyiyo le marike.
- ★ Linganisa oko ucinga ukuba kwenzeka emva kokuba kuphele ibali. Xa uPasi noPwai befika ekhaya, ucinga ukuba umama wabo wathini waza wenza ntoni?

Nal'ibali is a national reading-for-enjoyment campaign to spark and embed a culture of reading across South Africa. For more information, visit [www.nalibali.org](http://www.nalibali.org).



UNal'ibali liphulo likazwelonke lokufundela ukuzonwabisa elinjongo yalo ikukuvuselela nokwendiselisa inkcubeko nesithethe sokufunda kuMzantsi Afrika uphela. Ukuze ufumane iinkcukacha ezithe vetshe, ndwendwela ku-[www.nalibali.org](http://www.nalibali.org).



Drive your  
imagination

## The market Superman



## USuperman wasemarikeni

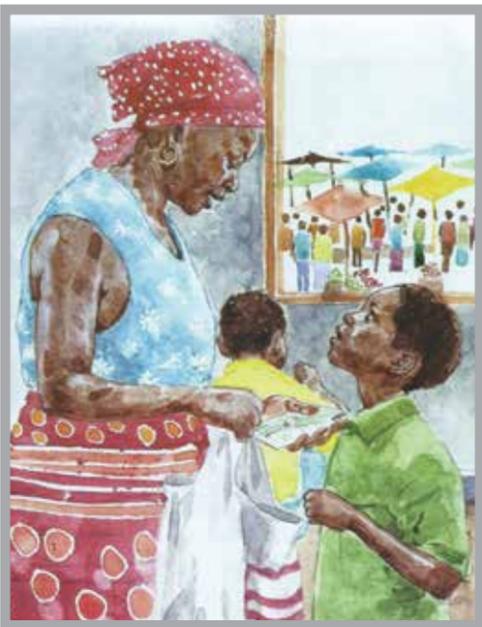
Ignatius Mabasa • Joseph Mugisha

**Ideas to talk about:** If you could have superpowers, what would you like them to be? Would you use it to benefit people in need or yourself only? What would you do with your superpowers?

**Izinto eninokuthetha ngazo:** Ukuba ubunokuba namandla angaphaya kwaqhelekileyo, ubungathanda ibe ngawokwenza ntoni? Ngaba ubungawasebenzisa ukuze kuncedakale abantu abasweleyo okanye wena wedwa? Ubungenza ntoni ukuba ubunamandla angaphaya kwaqhelekileyo?

Siyahamba sidlule kwizitendi ezimzi nakwifumba yegwawa ezinukayo, nezivuthwe zeqqithisa. Sibona ibuternut, amandongomane necnut ezisisazinge. Sibona iitorenji. Esinye istendi sinemfumba yekhaphetshu. Abanye abantu bathengisa iimboyi eziluhlaza nce-ertyisi. Kukho xa imhlophe qhwa ikhohlwawa. Kukho nabantu abathengisa ikhanakhana ebomvu. UPiwai uyayazi ikhanakhana eqhwehayo kuba uTata wakha warmika intwana ukuba ayingcamle ide wakhohlela waza walla de uMama warmika ubisi. Asikwazi kukhawuleza xa sihamba emarikeneni. Siman' ukugileka ebantwini. Abanye abantu bayasityhala, ide abanye bakwada. UPiwai mncinci, ide abanye abantu nokumbona, ngoko kufuneka ndimkhusele. Akwaba uMama ebeze ngokwakhe ukuza kuthenga ithanga. Sele siza kufika kwistendi samathanga. Nantsiya sendiyibona imfumba enkulu yamathanga.

Piwai doesn't understand what is going on. I see tears welling up in his eyes because the woman's angry face is scaring him. I force words out of my dry mouth and say, "I am very sorry, Mama, we got pushed from behind. We did not mean to upset you." "Upset me? No, you did not upset me, you upset my pawpaws. That is what you did!" she shouts. I am scared, but I don't know what else to say. I am not used to such angry adult talk. The woman is red in the face and she is still shouting at Piwai. Piwai is very upset and is sobbing loudly. I have to get away from this angry woman. "I am very sorry, Madam, it was an accident," I say. "Also, will you talk to me and not my brother, he can't hear you because he is deaf." "What next?" she shouts, stamping her foot. Then she sees the money I am holding. "Boy, is that money in your hand?" She snorts and sniffs like an angry rhino.



My name is Pasi. I am ten years old and live in Mbare in Zimbabwe. Our house is near the famous big vegetable market. Today we are having visitors and Mother is busy in the kitchen. I can smell the food from where I am playing with Piwai.

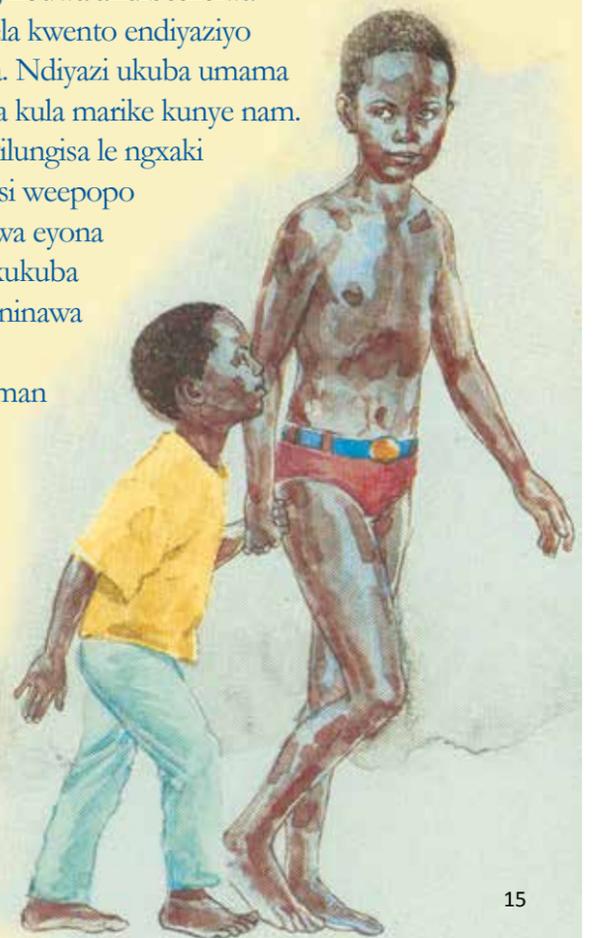
"Pasi, my boy, come here," Mother's voice calls from the kitchen. I go to her and she says, "I want you to go to the market and buy me a pumpkin. I want you back in five minutes."

I nod as Mother hands me a bag and some money. I go to fetch my shoes. Piwai follows me and also starts putting on his shoes. Piwai is my brother. He is three years old. Piwai is deaf.

Ndingakhange ndicinge nokucinga, ngokukhawuleza ndikhulula ihempe, izihlangu nebhulukhwe yam ndize ndilnike. Lizithi hlasi limke lingqisha ngomsindo. Ndiyagoduka ndisabambe isandla sikaPiwai. Ekuphela kwento endiyinxibileyo yiandapeni yam eblowu nabomvu kaSuperman.

Abanye abantwana bayadlula behleka iandapeni yam kaSuperman, kodwa andibethelwa nangudo. Ekuphela kwento endiyaziyo kukuba ndiyavuya. Ndiyazi ukuba umama wam uza kubuyela kula marike kunye nam. Sobabini, siza kuyilungisa le ngxaki kunye nomthengisi weepopo onomsindo. Kodwa eyona nto ibalulekileyo kukuba ndimhlangule umninawa wam.

NdinguSuperman wasemariken!



UPiwai akazi nokuba kubethwa abaphi. Ndi bona inyenbenzezi zisithi gwantyi emhweni akhe kuba ubuso obunomisingo beli bhinqa buyamoyikisa. Ndiyazinyanzela ukuba ndithethe ngaloo mlomo wam womileyo ndithi, "Uxolo, Mama, siye satyhawa ngasemva. Besingazimisela ngakucaphekisa." "Ukucaphekisa ma? Hayi, andicaphekisa ngakucaphekisa ipopo zam. Nantso into eniyenzileyo!" latsho likhwaza. Ndiyoyika, kodwa andazi ukuba ndithini ngoku. Andikucaphekisa ukuba umntu omdala ethetha ngomisingo ngolu hlobo. Ubuso beli bhinqa budomvu, ibe lisaghubeka lingsokisa uPiwai. UPiwai ukhathazekile ibe ulila kakulu. Kufuneka ndimke kweli bhinqa linomisingo. "Ndicela uxolo kakulu, Mama, asenzanga ngabom," Nditsho. "Enye into, ndicela ubhekise kum hayi kumninawa wam, akeva ngeendlebe." "Nantoni enye?" likhwaza litsho, lingsokisa ngonyawo. Emva koko libona imali endiyiphetheyo. "Kwedini, yimali le isesandleni sakho?" Layafutha lixelisa umkhombe olugcalagcala ngumisingo.

We walk past many stalls and heaps of smelly, overripe guavas. We see butternuts, peanuts and round-nuts. We see oranges. Another stall has a mountain of cabbages. Some people are selling green beans and green peas. There is broccoli and dirty cauliflower. Mother only likes cauliflower if it is snow-white. There are also vendors selling red hot chili. Piwai knows hot chili because Father once gave him a little to taste and he coughed and cried until mother gave him some milk. We can't walk fast in the market. We keep bumping into people. Some people push us and some are rude. Piwai is small and some people don't even see him, so I must act as his shield. I wish Mother had come to buy the pumpkin herself. We are almost at the pumpkin stall. I can already see the huge mound of pumpkins.



Without thinking, I quickly remove my shirt, shoes and trousers and hand them to her. She grabs them and stomps off. I walk home still holding Piwai's hand. All I have on are my blue and red Superman underpants.

Some children walk by and laugh at my Superman underpants, but I don't even care. All I know is that I am happy. I know my mother will go back to the market with me. Together we will sort out the mess with the angry pawpaw seller. But the most important thing is that I have saved my little brother.

I am the market Superman!

"Piwai wants to come with me," I shout to Mother. "Pasi, I don't want Piwai going with you. I want that pumpkin now."

I leave Piwai behind. He is struggling to put on his other shoe as I dash out of the house.

Igama lam nguPasi. Ndineminyaka elishumi ubudala ibe ndihlala eMbare eZimbabwe. Ekhaya kukufutshane nemarki yemifuno enkulu edumileyo. Namhlanje, sineendwendwe, ibe umama uxakekile kwigumbi lokuphekela. Ndiliva ndikule ndawo ndidlala kuyo noPiwai ivumba lokutya.

"Pasi, mntwana wam, khawuze apha," likhwaza litsho ilizwi likaMama kwigumbi lokuphekela. Ndiyaya kuye, ibe uthi, "Ndifuna ukhe uye emarikeneni uye kundithengela ithanga. Ndifuna ube sele ubuyile kwimizuzu emihlanu."

Ndiyancwala njengoko uMama endinika ibhegi kunye nemali. Ndiyahamba ndiye kulanda izihlangu. UPiwai uyandilandela aze aqalise ukunxiba izihlangu zakhe naye. UPiwai ngumninawa wam. Uneminyaka emithathu ubudala. UPiwai akeva ngeendlebe.

"UPiwai ufuna ukuhamba nam," ndikhwaza nditsho kuMama.

"Pasi, andifuni uPiwai ahambe nawe. Ndifuna elo thanga ngoku."

Ndiyamshiya uPiwai. Usokoliswa kukunxiba esinye isihlangu sakhe njengoko ndiphuma ndibaleka endlwini.



“Pasi, Pasi,” uMama uphinda akhwaze. Ndiyajika ndize ndimbone emi emyango kunye noPwai. Izidlele zakhe zimanzi taxi zinyembezi. “Kubhecele uze kuthatha uPwai. Kuyaphithizela ematkeni. Kukho abantu abakhwazayo nabancokolayo, abathengayo nabathengisayo, abaphakamisa izinto, abaphethe izinto nabazityhalayo. UPwai uhleka indoda ethengisa iirenji. Udalisana ngecorenji ezintathu amane eziphosa emoyeni. Uyakhwaza esithi nabani na ongakwazi ukwenza loo nto uza kufumana isaphulelo. Ndiamba isandla sikaPwai ndisisiqinise njengoko siphinyela kweso sihwile sabantu.



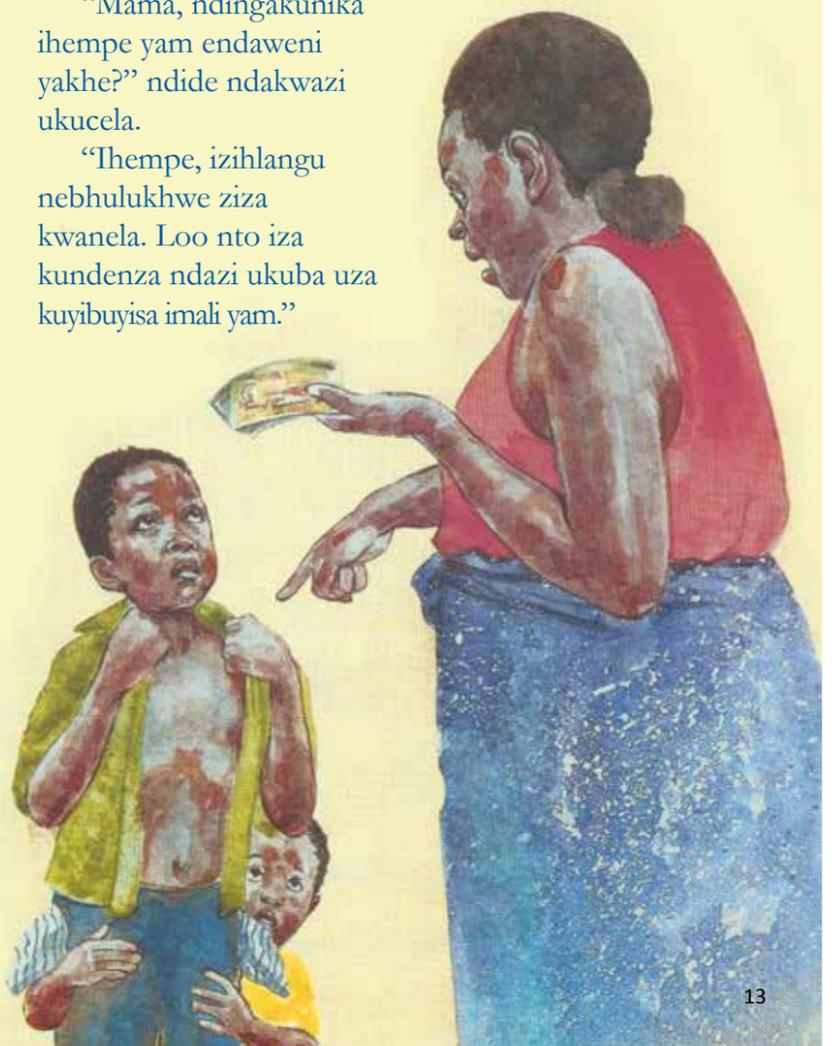
“Pasi, Pasi,” Mother calls again. I turn around and see her standing at the door with Piwai. His cheeks are wet with tears. “You had better take Piwai. Please hurry.” It is busy at the market. There are many people shouting and talking, buying and selling, lifting, carrying and pushing. Piwai laughs at the man selling oranges. He is juggling three oranges in the air. He shouts that anybody who can do the same can get a discount. I hold Piwai’s hand firmly as we weave through the forest of people.

I nod. The other people in the market seem not to notice this woman and what she is doing to us. I feel so small against this big, angry woman. The woman snatches my bag and money. She counts the money and says it can only pay for one pawpaw. Then she says, “I will take this money and your brother until you bring money for the other pawpaw?” I panic. I can’t leave Pwai behind. This woman is mean and Pwai is so small. I have to protect him. I won’t leave him behind. I feel hot and my heart pounds.

Ndiyanguwala. Abanye abantu ematkeni ingathi abahloni eli bhinqa nale nto livenza kuthi. Ndziva ndimcinci kakhulu kweli bhinqa likhulu linomindo. Eli bhinqa lithi hlasi ibhegi yam nemali. Labala imali lize lithi ingabhatala ipopo enye kuphela. Emva koko lithi, “Ndziza kuthatha le mali kunye nomninawwa wakho de uze nemali yenye ipopo.” Ndiyaphakuzela. Andinakushiya uPwai ngasemva. Eli bhinqa likhohlakele, kwaye uPwai mncinci kakhulu. Kufuneka ndimkhusele. Andisoze ndimshye. Ndziva ndifudumala ibe indizyo yam ibetha ngamandla.

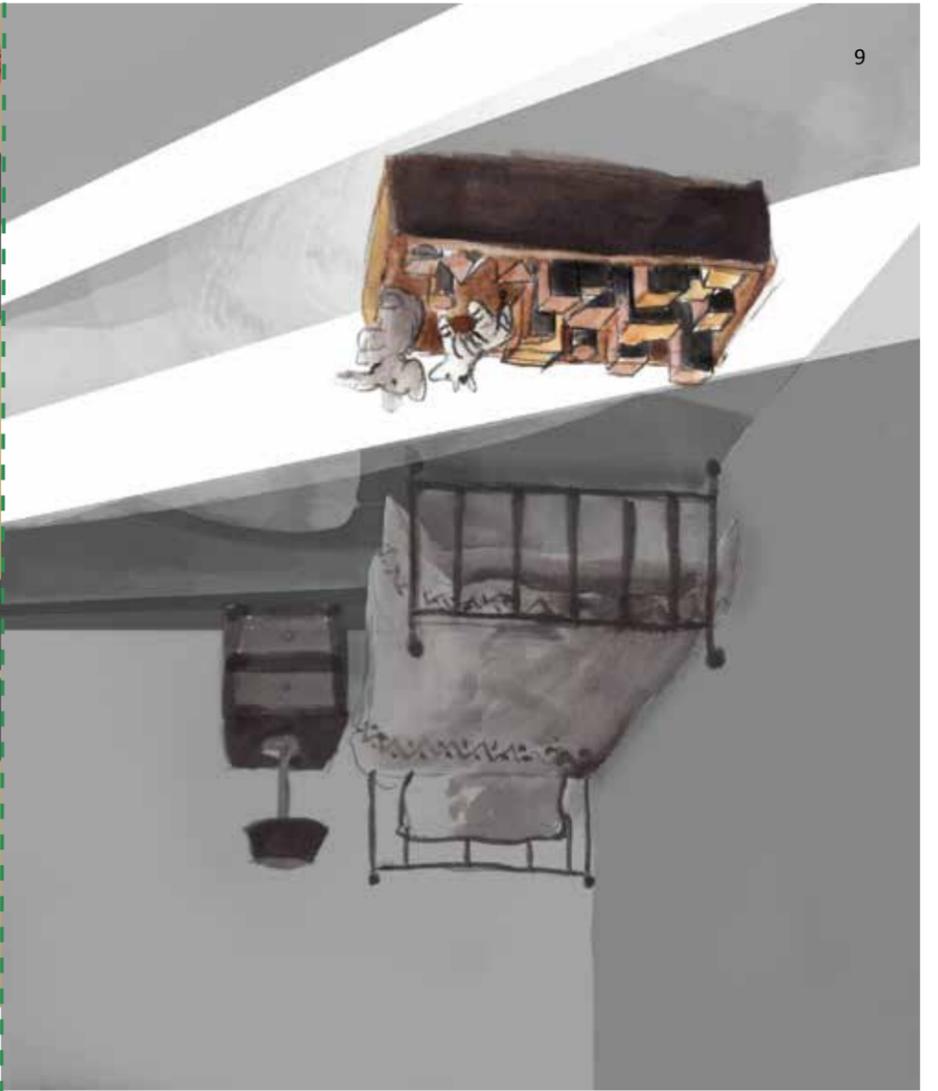
“Madam, can I give you my shirt and shoes instead?” I manage to ask.  
 “Your shirt, shoes and trousers will do. That way I know you will bring my money.”

“Mama, ndingakunika ihempe yam endaweni yakhe?” ndide ndakwazi ukucela.  
 “Thempe, izihlangu nebhlukhwe ziza kwanela. Loo nto iza kundenza ndazi ukuba uza kuyibuyisa imali yam.”

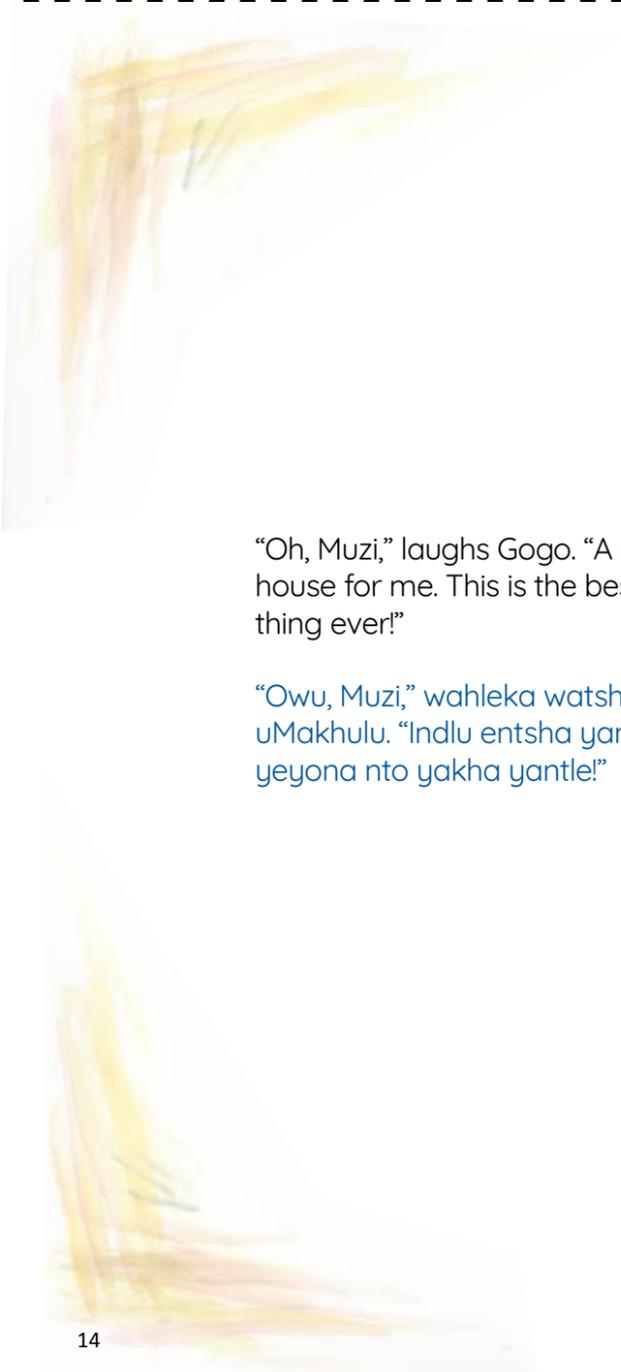




By the riverside, Muzi finds more things.  
Soft things and pointy things. Green things  
and brown things.  
Ngasemlanjeni, uMuzi ufumana izinto ezingakumbi.  
Izinto ezithambileyo nezinto ezitsobhileyo. Izinto  
eziluhlaza nezinto ezibrawuni.

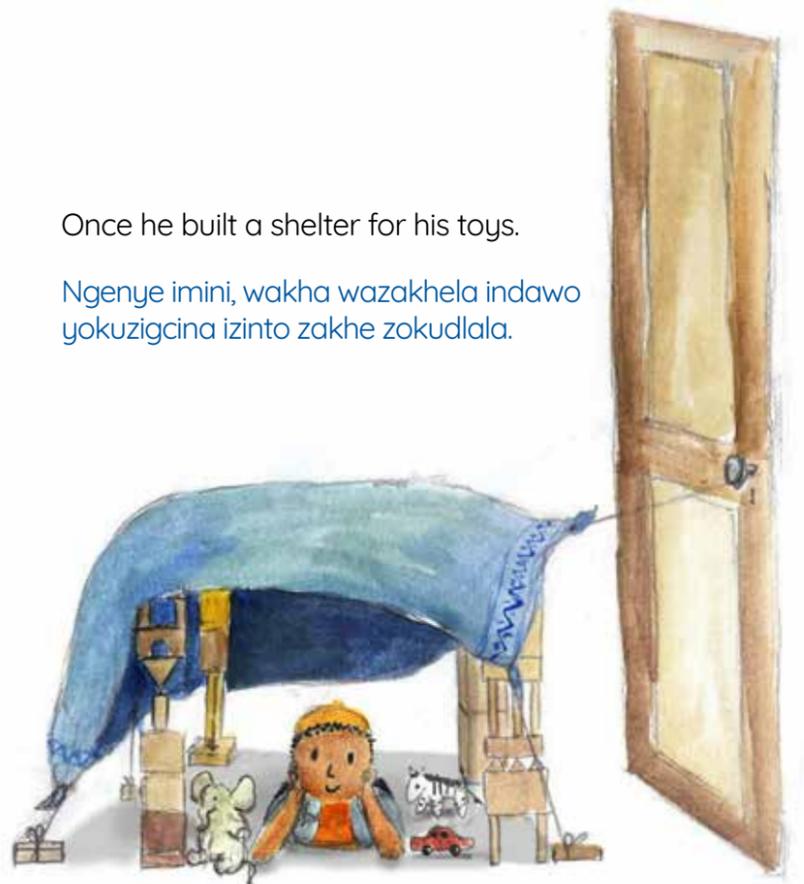


Today Muzi is going to  
visit uGogo.  
Namhlanje, uMuzi uza  
kundwendwela uMakhulu.



“Oh, Muzi,” laughs Gogo. “A new house for me. This is the best thing ever!”

“Owu, Muzi,” wahleka watsho uMakhulu. “Indlu entsha yam. Le yeyona nto yakha yantle!”

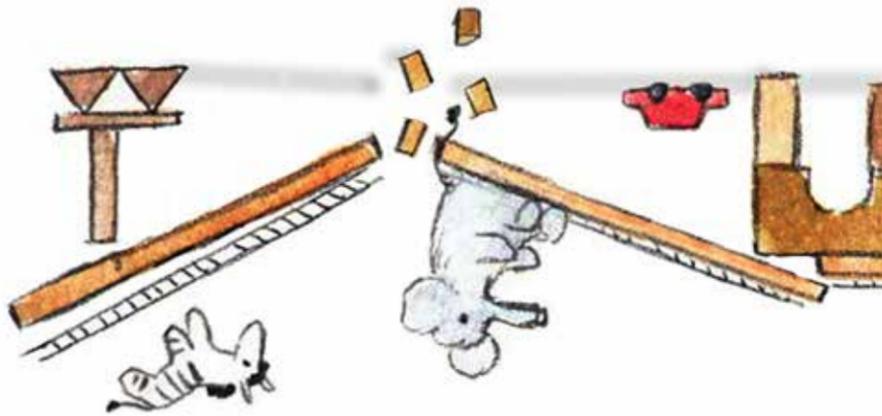


Once he built a shelter for his toys.

Ngenye imini, wakha wazakhela indawo yokuzigcina izinto zakhe zokudlala.

But it wasn't the best thing ever.

Kodwa yayingeyiyo eyona nto yakha yantle.



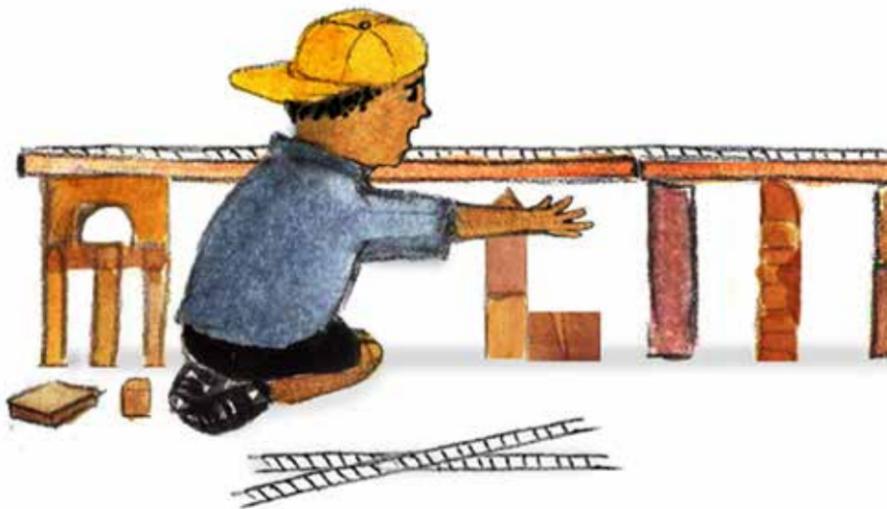
It was a good thing,  
 But not the best...  
 Yayijinto entle yona. Kodwa  
 yayingeyiyo eyona nto intle...



Look, Muzi! We are here.  
 Jonga, Muzi! Sesifikile.

Yesterday he built a bridge  
 for his animals.

Izolo, wakhele izilwanyana  
 zakhe ibhulorho.



While uGogo bakes for  
 the hungry travellers ...  
 Muzi builds.

Ngoxa uMakhulu  
 esabhakela abahambi  
 abalambileyo ...  
 UMuzi uyakha.

"Gogo, Gogo!" says  
 Muzi. "The world is full  
 of toys. Look what I  
 can build."

"Makhulu,  
 Makhulu!"  
 utsho uMuzi.  
 "Ihlabathi  
 lizele zizinto  
 zokudlala.  
 Jonga into  
 endikwazi ukuyakha."

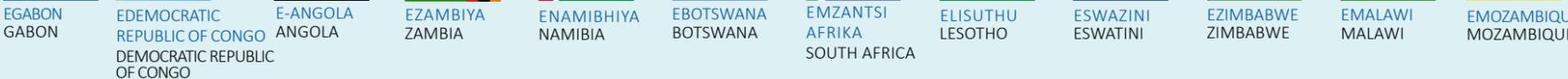
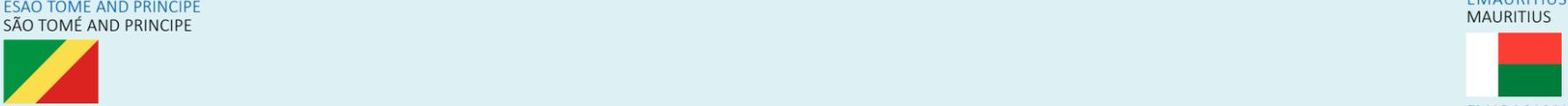
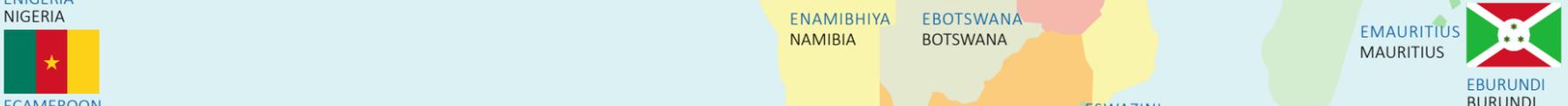


# Iiflegi zase Afrika ezingama-54!

# 54 flags for Africa!

Sebenzisa iwulu ebhityileyo neepin udibanise iflegi nelizwe layo.

Use some thin wool and pins to match each flag to its country.





# Isiphiwo sikaQongqothwane

NguVianne Venter ■ Imizobo izotywe nguHeidel Dedekind



Yade yafika imini yokuba izinambuzane ziqhube umsitho wokuwonga abaphumelele iimbasa! Zonke izinambuzane zaziziva zinxhala. Ngubani owayeza kuphumelela imbasa yokomelela okanye yokuba yeyona mbaleki ibalaseleyo? Ngubani owayeza kuchazwa njengoyena mhle okanye oyena ukrelekrele? Naphi na apho ujongka khona, izinambuzane ezincinane zazikhawuleza zisihla zinyuka, zikama iimpondo zazo kwaye ziqhelisela ubuchule bazo, zisenza amatshamba kwaye zigxeshana. Zazinjalo zonke, ngaphandle kukaQongqothwane.

"Unjani, unjani! Linjani ixhala, Qongqothwane?" wabuza uPhela ehambela phezulu.

"Ubani, mna?" waphendula uQongqothwane. "Mna andinanto inokundenza ixhala. Andinawo amendu njengawe, Phela. Akakho umntu onamendu njengawe."

"Nyhani? Ndiyabulela ngaloo mazwi, Qongqothwane," watsho uPhela encumile. "Eh oh, nanku uNkszn Mbelukazi Yonobuhle ... Ndimekile. Siya kuphinda sibonane." Waphel' emehlweni.



"Heyi," watsho uBhabhathane, ephaphazelisa amaphiko akhe kwelo langa lithe qhakra. "Ungaboncokola nesa sigebeza, Qongqothwane."

"Owu, uPhela akambanga olo hlobo ke noko. Ungumntu olungileyo kanti uyazi ... ukuba nje ungakwazi ukuhambisana namendu akhe," wahleka watsho uQongqothwane.

"Hay' bo, esi stayile seenwele!" watsho uBhabhathane, ecatshekiswa ziiwele zakhe. "Kazi ngoobani abaza kuphumelela amabhaso namhlanje."

"Akukho nto ndiza kuyiphumelela mna, leyo into ndiqinisekile ngayo," watsho ehleka uQongqothwane. "Andimhlanga, njengawe, Bhabhathane. Akakho umntu omhle ukogqitha wena."

"Eish, Qongqothwane, ulunge ngokwenene," watsho uBhabhathane esitho ngolona ncumo luhle lwakhe. "Eh oh, nanku uMabhulukhwe Amahle esiza!" Emva wongeza esebenza esithi, "Akasiso nesinambuzane ke, uyazi." Uthe akutsho, uBhabhathane wabhabha waya kujonga imake up yakhe.

USigcawu weza kuQongqothwane, eshwantshwatha ezithethela, "... mbini dibanisa nombini kuphuma ezine, ezine dibanisa nezine sisibhozo, isibhozo dibanisa nesibhozo, lishumi elinesithandathu ... Heiya, Qongqothwane! Shu, eliya bhabhathane lisile kodwa! Alazi na ukuba liyirhorho nje?"

"Owu, Sigcawu," watsho uQongqothwane ehleka. "Uzithandela nje ubuhle yena."

"Ayibalulekanga inkangeleko, uyazi! Into ebalulekileyo yile ilapha entloko!" watsho uSigcawu, ebetha ngomnye entlokwini yakhe. "Kudala ndifunda. Ndifuna ngokwenene ukuphumelela imbasa yokuba sesona sinambuzane sikrelekrele. Wena?"

"Oh, andizugoduka nambasa mna. Andikho krelekrele njengawe, Sigcawu. Usesona sinambuzane sikrelekrele ukuzogqitha zonke!"

"Owu bethuna! Enkosi ngalo mazwi! Unobubele kakhulu ... Eh oh! Nanku uMbovane esiza. Andinalo ixesha lokuvonyavonya kwakhe izoso ngoku. Ndisemkile ndisayokufunda," watsho uSigcawu, ehamba ngokukhawuleza.

UMbovane weza ephethe ilitye elinobunzima obuphindwe kane kunobukhulu bomzimba wakhe! UQongqothwane wothuka xa uMbovane eliwisa phantsi kuvakala isithonga esithi *gqu!* "Ibisithini ke le ntombazana icinga ukuba iyeyona ikrelekrele?"

"Owu, Mbovane, sukuba nolunya!" watsho uQongqothwane. "USigcawu uzithandela nje iincwadi zakhe. Asinakukwazi ukuba namandla amakhulu njengawe sonke."

UMbovane wabetha uQongqothwane emqolo, ehleka. "Ndomelele ngokwenene, akunjalo? Leliphi ke ibhaso elikhethekileyo oza kuliphumelela wena namhlanje?"

"Akukho nto ikhethekileyo ubonanjengam, Mbovane," watsho uQongqothwane kalusizi. "Andinamendu, andimhlanga, andikho krelekrele, andinamandla. Ndisinambuzane nje esiqhelekileyo."

"Uyazi, ndicinga ukuba usisinambuzane esiqhelekileyo *esilungileyo*," watsho uMbovane. "Mhlawumbi usesona silungileyo ... Heyi, sele lixesha lomsitho wabaphumelele iimbasa. Uyeza?" UMbovane wahamba esiya elityeni apho zonke izinambuzane zazidibene khona ukuze zenze umsitho weembasa, ibe uQongqothwane wakhawuleza ehamba ecaleni kwakhe.

Wonke umntu wayethe cwaka. UMntwanezulu waphakamisa imbasa yokuqala. "Imbasa yeyona mbaleki inamendu kulo nyaka, iya ... kuPhela!" watsho. Zonke izinambuzane zaqhweba. UQongqothwane waqhweba ukuzogqitha.

"Imbasa yesona sinambuzane *sihle* ...," waqhubeka watsho uMntwanezulu, "... iya ... kuBhabhathane!" Wonke wakhwaza ingamayeye. UQongqothwane wakhwaza ukubogqitha bonke.

"Imbasa yesona sinambuzane *sikrelekrele* iya ... kuSigcawu!" watsho uMntwanezulu. Isihlewe savuya. UQongqothwane wavuya ukuzogqitha.

Kwakushiyeke imbasa enye kuphela. "Imbasa yesona sinambuzane *sinamandla* iya ... kuMbovane!" UMntwanezulu wancuma. Zonke izinambuzane zakhwaza zisitho ngamkhwelo zingqisha nangeenyawo zazo phantsi. UQongqothwane wayesitho ngoncumo oluphela ezindlebeni. Wayebavuyela abahlobo bakhe!

Xa wonke umntu ezolile, uMntwanezulu wathi, "Okokugqibela, kulo nyaka sinembasa *ekhethekileyo* ... elona bhaso liphezulu, elivotelwe nini nonke. Lelona wonga liphezulu eli, eyona mbasa iphambili ..." wabhekabheka. Emva koko amehlo akhe athi ntsho kwisinambuzane esithile. Isinambuzane esithile esiqheleke ngokupheleleyo, esingabalaselanga, esingakhethekanga. "Elona wonga liphezulu, eyona mbasa iphambili neyona inkulu iya ... kuQongqothwane."

UQongqothwane waphantsa wawa kuthuka. "M-m-na?" wathintitha watsho. "Kodwa ... kodwa andinanto ndizibalule ngayo nje. Andikhethekanga nangayiphi na indlela." UQongqothwane wayengaqondi. Imele ukuba yayiyimpazamo le, watsho ecinga. Kodwa bonke abahlobo bakhe babemncumele, ngokungathi babesazi nto ithile angayaziyo.

"Qongqothwane othandekayo," uMntwanezulu watsho encumile. "Ezinye izinambuzane zifuna ukukuwonga ngale mbasa yegolide ... ngokuba sesona sinambuzane *sinobubele* phakathi kwethu."

"Ungungqa phambili!" watsho uPhela.

"Awuqhelekanga tu," watsho uBhabhathane, encumile.

"Ukhethekile!" watsho uSigcawu.

"Akakho ofana nawe, Qongqothwane! Nguwe wedwa ofana nawe! Isiphiwo onaso *bububele*," wacacisa uMbovane.

"Kodwa ... *nabani na* anganobubele," watsho uQongqothwane, edidekile.

"Unyanisile, Qongqothwane," watsho uMntwanezulu. "Nabani na anganabo ububele, kodwa nguwe wedwa okhethe ukuba nobubele ngalo lonke ixesha."

Emva koko abahlobo bakaQongqothwane bamfunqula, bekhwaza njengoko bemthwele ngeentloko zabo, baya naye phezulu elityeni.



UQongqothwane wayeqala ukuziva ekhetheke, okanye onwabe ngolo hlobo, kubo bonke ubomi bakhe. Ibe ekuphela kwento awayekwazi ukuyisebeza ngamazwi athi, "Indlela *abanobubele* ngayo bonke abahlobo bam!"

## Yenza ibali linike umdla!

- ★ Ngamanye amaxesha isiphiwo esinaso asiyonto esikwazi ukuyenza, kodwa yindlela esibenza bazive ngayo abanye abantu. Yintoni wena isiphiwo sakho esikhethekileyo?
- ★ Usayikhumbula into esasibalasele ngayo isinambuzane ngasinye? Yenza uluhlu lwesinambuzane ngasinye esikweli bali. Ecaleni kwegama lesinambuzane ngasinye, bhala into esibalasele ngayo.

- ★ Ngoku bhala uluhlu lwabo bonke abantu abakwikhaya lakho, uze ubhale into ngamnye abalasele ngayo, kuquka nawe!



Drive your  
imagination



# Beetle's talent

By Vianne Venter ■ Illustrations by Heidel Dedekind

Story corner



It was finally the day of the bugs' awards ceremony! All the bugs were feeling very nervous. Who would win the medal for strength or for being the best runner? Who would be named the prettiest or the cleverest? Everywhere you looked, little bugs were hurrying up and down, combing their feelers and practicing their skills, showing off and getting grumpy with each other. That is, all except Beetle.

"Howzit, howzit! Aren't you nervous, Beetle?" Cockroach asked as he rushed up.

"Who, me?" replied Beetle. "There's nothing for *me* to be nervous about. I'm not fast, like you, Cockroach. No one's as fast as you."

"Really? That's very nice of you, Beetle," Cockroach smiled. "Uh oh, here comes Miss Beauty Pageant ... I'm off. See you later." And off he ran.



"Hey," said Butterfly, moving her wings up and down in the sunlight. "You shouldn't talk to that skebenga, Beetle."

"Oh, Cockroach is not so bad. He's actually quite a nice guy ... if you can keep up with him," laughed Beetle.

"*Hayibo*, this hairstyle!" said Butterfly, fussing with her hair. "I wonder who's going to win the prizes today."

"I won't be winning anything, that's for sure," Beetle laughed. "I'm no beauty, like you, Butterfly. No one's as beautiful as you."

"Eish, Beetle, you are too sweet," said Butterfly flashing her prettiest smile. "Uh oh, here comes Smarty Pants!" Then she added in a whisper, "She's not even an insect, you know." And with that, Butterfly fluttered off to check her make-up.

Spider scuttled up to Beetle, muttering to herself, "... two plus two is four, four plus four is eight, eight plus eight is sixteen, sixteen ... *Heita*, Beetle! *Sjoe*, but that butterfly has got an attitude! Doesn't she know she's just a *gogga*?"

"Oh, Spider," laughed Beetle. "She just likes to look good."

"It's not about looks, you know! It's about what you have up here!" said Spider, tapping her head. "I've been studying and studying. I really want to win the medal for being the cleverest bug. And you?"

"Oh, I won't be taking home any medals today. I'm not as clever as you, Spider. You're the cleverest bug of all!"

"Wow! Thanks for saying so! You're very kind ... Uh oh! Here comes Ant. I haven't got time for his muscle manoeuvres now. I'm off to study some more," said Spider, scuttling off.

Ant marched over, carrying a stone four times his size! Beetle got a fright as Ant dropped it on the ground with a loud *thunk*! "So, what did Miss I-think-I'm-so-clever have to say for herself?"

"Oh, Ant, don't be unkind!" said Beetle. "Spider just loves her books. We can't all be superstrong like you."

Ant clapped Beetle on the back, laughing. "I am really strong, aren't I? So, what special prize are you going to win today?"

"There's nothing really special about me, Ant," said Beetle sadly. "I'm not fast, or pretty, or clever, or strong. I'm just an ordinary bug."

"Well, I think you are a *good* ordinary bug," said Ant. "Maybe even the best ... Hey, it's almost time for the awards ceremony. Are you coming?" Ant marched off towards the rock where all the bugs had gathered for the awards ceremony, and Beetle scurried along beside him.

Everyone was quiet. Mantis held up the first medal. "This year's medal for the *fastest* runner, goes to ... Cockroach!" she announced. All the bugs clapped. Beetle clapped the loudest.

"The medal for the *prettiest* bug ...," continued Mantis, "... goes to ... Butterfly!" Everyone cheered. Beetle cheered the loudest.

"The medal for the *cleverest* bug goes to ... Spider!" announced Mantis. The crowd whooped. Beetle whooped even louder.

There was only one medal left. "The medal for the *strongest* bug goes to ... Ant!" Mantis smiled. All the bugs yelled and whistled and drummed their feet on the ground. Beetle grinned from ear to ear. She was so happy for her friends!

When everyone had quietened down, Mantis said, "Finally, this year we have a special medal ... the top prize, as voted for by all of you. This is the highest honour, the best award ...". She looked around. Then her large eyes settled on one particular bug. One completely ordinary, unremarkable, nothing-special-about-her bug. "The highest honour, the best award and the biggest medal goes to ... Beetle."

Beetle almost fell over in surprise. "M-m-me?" she stammered. "But ... but I'm not the best at anything. I'm not special in any way." Beetle didn't understand. It must be a mistake, she thought. But all her friends were smiling at her, as if they knew something that she didn't.

"Dear Beetle," Mantis smiled. "The other bugs and I would like to award you this gold medal ... for being the *kindest* bug amongst us."

"You're the best!" shouted Cockroach.

"You're not ordinary at all," said Butterfly, smiling.

"You *are* special!" said Spider.

"You are one of a kind, Beetle! The only one like you! Your talent is kindness," explained Ant.

"But ... but *anyone* can be kind," said Beetle, confused.

"Exactly, Beetle," said Mantis. "Anyone can be kind, but only you choose to be kind all the time."

Then Beetle's friends picked her up, cheering as they carried her over their heads, all the way up to the top of the rock.



Beetle had never felt so special, or so happy, in all her life. And all she could whisper was, "How *kind* all my friends are!"

## Get story active!

- ★ Sometimes our gift is not about what we can do, but how we make others feel. What is your special talent?
- ★ Can you remember what each insect was good at? Make a list of each insect in the story. Next to each insect's name, write down what they were good at.

- ★ Now make a list of all the people in your home, and write down what each one is good at, including you!



# Okokuzonwabisa kwakwaNal'ibali

## Nal'ibali fun



1.

1. Ungakwazi ukuwabhala kakuhle amagama emifuno neziqhamo ezabonwa nguPasi noPiwai emarikeni kwibali elithi "USuperman wasemariken?"

Can you unscramble the letters to make the names of the vegetables and fruit Pasi and Piwai saw at the market in the story *The market Superman*?



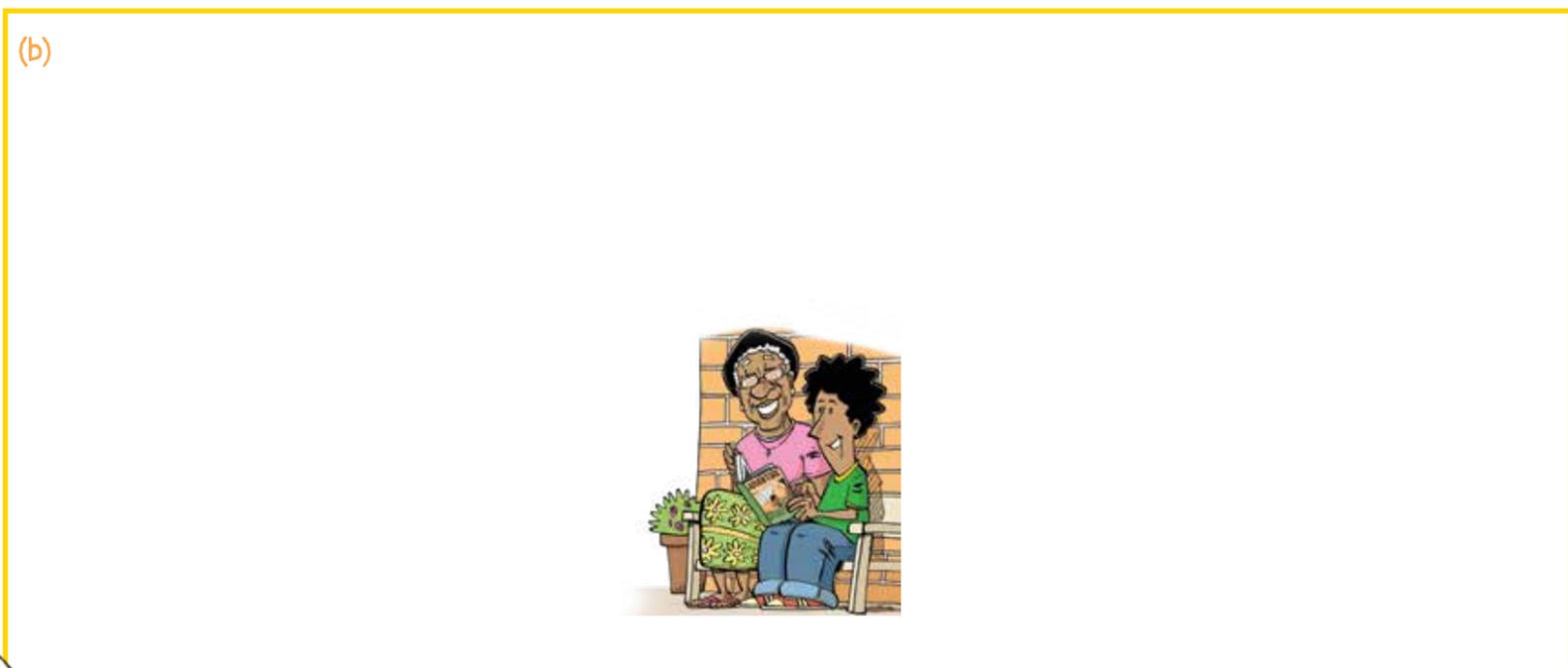
vigaawi	-----	saausgv
falikowihla	-----	fauleliocrw
hipakeshuth	-----	acebabg
jeniori	-----	ragosen
rhihloobik	-----	cliorocb
ntaghai	-----	mkinupp



2.

a) Ucinga ukuba aba bantu babhaqwe befunda phi?  
b) Ngoku zoba indawo ocinga ukuba uMakhulu noJosh bafundela kuyo!

a) Where do you think these people were caught reading?  
b) Now draw the place where you think Gogo and Josh are reading!



AbakwaNal'ibali bakhona ukuze bakunike inkuthazo nenkxaso. Qhagamshelana nathi nangayiphi na enye kwezi ndlela zilandelayo:

Nal'ibali is here to motivate and support you. Contact us in any of these ways:

- TheNalibaliChannel
- nalibaliSA
- @nalibaliSA
- @nalibalisa
- @nalibalisa
- nalibalisa
- The Nal'ibali Trust
- +27 64 801 5496

Produced by The Nal'ibali Trust. Translation by Mosekola Solutions. Nal'ibali character illustrations by Rico.



Drive your imagination

